

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INRE-00 SS-20 NSC-10 SCS-03 SCA-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 PM-07 H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5644

INFO USIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR UR, US

SUBJECT: JOSELOFF INCIDENT

1. DEPUTY CHIEF MFA'S USA DIVISION KOMPLEKTOV SUMMONED POL COUNSELOR JANUARY 26 TO RECEIVE ORAL PROTEST CONCERNING UPI CORRESPONDENT GORDON JOSELOFF. POL COUNSELOR COUNTERED WITH COMPLAINT ABOUT TREATMENT OF JOSELOFF AND OBJECTED TO REFUSAL OF PRESS DIVISION TO RECEIVE PRESS/CULTURAL COUNSELOR TO DISCUSS JOSELOFF CASE.

2. TRANSLATION OF ORAL STATEMENT:

ON JANUARY 23, 1974, COMPETENT ORGANS TOOK FROM THE CORRESPONDENT OF THE AMERICAN AGENCY UNITED PRESS GORDON JOSELOFF ELEVEN COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRES WHICH HE HAD PREVIOUSLY DISTRIBUTED TO SOVIET CITIZENS, THE CONTENTS OF WHICH IRREFUTABLY TESTIFY TO THE PROVOCATIVE AND HOSTILE INTENTIONS OF THIS JOURNALIST AND OF THE PERSONS BEHIND HIM.

THE ACTIVITIES OF GM JOSELOFF CAN ONLY BE DESCRIBED AS INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE USSR AND CONTRARY TO THE PROCESS OF NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES.

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THE MFA OF THE USSR IS AUTHORIZED TO PROTEST TO THE EMBASSY OF THE USA IN MOSCOW IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROVOCATIVE BEHAVIOR OF THE AMERICAN JOURNALIST AND RESERVES THE RIGHT IN THE FUTURE, IF HE DOES NOT CHANGE HIS BEHAVIOR, TO TAKE MEASURES AGAINST HIM INCLUDING EXPULSION.

3. AFTER KOMPLEKTOV READ STATEMENT, POL COUNSELOR EXPRESSED EMBASSY'S DISSATISFACTION WITH RESUSAL OF PRESS DIVISION TO RECEIE PRESS/CULTURAL COUNSELOR EARLIER IN WEEK TO DISCUSS THE JOSELOFF CASE DESPITE URGENT TELEPHONED REQUESTS TO DO SO. POL COUNSELOR STATED EMBASSY REGARDS TREATMENT OF JOSELOFF AS UNWARRANTED INTERFERENCE WITH AMERICAN JOURNALIST WHO WAS CARRYING OUT NORMAL JOURNALISTIC FUNCTIONS; THUS WE COULD NOT AGREE WITH CHARACTERIZATION OF JOSELOFF'S ACTIVITIES AS INTERFERECE IN SOVIET INTERNAL AFFAIRS. HE REMINDED KOMPLEKTOV THAT AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS ARE NOT EMPLOYED BY EMBASSY BUT PRESS/CULTURAL COUNSELOR WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY PASS CONTENTS OF MFA STATEMENT TO UNITED PRESS OFFICE FOR ITS INFORMATION. KOMPLEKTOV REITERATED HIS VIEW THAT THIS WAS PROTEST DIRECTED TO EMBASSY AND EMBASSY SHOULD THEREFORE ACT ON IT.

4. IN FURTHER DISCUSSION, POL COUNSELOR MADE POINT THAT IF SOVIET SIDE IS CONCERNED ABOUT STORIES REACHING THE OUTSIDE WORLD WHICH MIGHT AFFECT THE SOVIET IMAGE, THEY SHOULD REALIZE THAT THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF JOSELOFF'S APPREHENSION BY INDIVIDUALS IN PLAINCLOTHES WHO IDENTIFIED THEMSELVES AS KGB BUT MADE THREATS IN THE NAME OF MFA AND SEIZED PAPERS FROM HIS CLOTHING COULD MAKE A SENSATIONAL AND UNFAVORABLE STORY. IN DISCUSSION OF NATURE OF JOSELOFF'S ALLEGED MISDEEDS, KOMPLEKTOV DECLINED TO SAY WHETHER SOVIET SIDE OBJECTED PRIMARILY TO DISTRIBUTION OF QUESTIONNAIRES OR TO THEIR CONTENT, BUT FELL BACK ON OFFICIAL SOVIET VIEW THAT JOSELOFF'S BEHAVIOR OVERALL IN THIS INCIDENT CONSTITUTED INTERFERENCE IN SOVIET INTERNAL AFFAIRS. HE DID SAY "OFF THERECORD" THAT THE POLLING OF SOVIET CITIZENS IS A MATTER FOR COMPETENT SOVIET SOCIOLOGICAL ORGANS, NOT FOR FOREIGN JOURNALISTS.

5. REQUEST DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZE EMBASSY ASAP TO INFORM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UPI OF PROTEST AND FACT THAT EMBASSY AT SAME TIME EXPRESSED ITS OBJECTIONS TO TREATMENT OF JOSELOFF.

6. WE RECOMMEND THAT DEPARTMENT TAKE OPPORTUNITY IN DISCUSSIONS WITH SOVIET EMBASSY TO FOLLOW UP EMBASSY'S COMPLAINT ABOUT LACK OF ACCESS TO PRESS DIVISION IN MOSCOW.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, PERSONNEL CONDUCT, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, THE PRESS, JOURNALISTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 JAN 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** JOSELOFF INCIDENT  
**TAGS:** PFOR, UR, US, (JOSELOFF, GORDON)  
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